

# SAVE Water and Money!

**Why conserve?** Water is a valuable resource and is becoming more expensive each and every day as supplies worldwide slowly diminish. Although 71% of Earth's surface is water, only 3% of that water is suitable for drinking.



- ◆ Average Veneta household water usage more than doubles during summer months.
- ◆ Veneta receives nearly 50 inches of precipitation a year, however only 10% of that falls from June-September.
- ◆ Within the region, outdoor water use accounts for about 41% of total residential water usage.
- ◆ Research shows that on average 80-90% of outdoor residential water usage is for lawn watering.
- ◆ Toilets are the number one water use indoors, accounting for about 27% of all indoor water use.
- ◆ According to the EPA, about 20% of toilets leak, and a leaky toilet can increase water usage by 200 gallons a day!

## City of Veneta Residential Water Rates

Designed to encourage conservation, the City employs what is commonly referred to as a conservation rate structure. The basic idea is that as you use more, the cost of water per 1,000 gallons goes up.

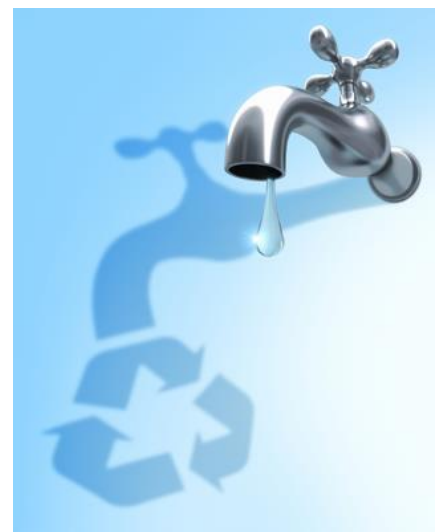
All residential accounts are charged the same base rate (\$15.45) regardless of use, PLUS:

**\$3.37** per 1,000 gallons for the first 5,000 gallons  
**\$4.01** per 1,000 gallons *over* 5,000 gallons and  
**\$4.81** per 1,000 gallons over the 15,000 gallons

### Example:

Your bill says your household used 6,000\* gallons:  
 $\$15.45 + (5 \times \$3.37) + (1 \times \$4.01) = \$36.31$

\*Average Veneta household summertime usage is 4,000-7,000 gal/mo.





# Lawn Guide

## Watering

In general, lawns require approximately 1" of water a week, including rainfall, in temperatures up to 85°. Temperatures above 85° require 1 ½" per week. You can measure the amount by placing lawn watering gauges or tuna cans around the lawn when you water. Split the 1" into two or three applications over the week to allow for better absorption of moisture. This also prevents runoff which would wash fertilizers and pesticides into the storm system rather than keeping them in your yard.

-Remember that over-watering causes 75% of all turf problems.

## When to Water

*The best time to water is early in the morning when the dew point is the lowest. It is recommended that lawns be watered anytime from 5-8 AM.*

After 9 AM, evaporation begins to rob the soil of moisture. Also, water droplets combined with the hot sun create a magnifying effect that can actually burn your grass and plants.

-Running a sprinkler or watering at night can lead to root rot and creates excessive moisture that can cause certain lawn diseases.

-Water only when grass or plants show signs of needing water. If you step on grass and it springs back up, you can wait to water. If it stays flat, it's time to water.

## Lawn Care

When mowing the lawn, leave the grass at least 3" long to provide shade for the roots. Leave grass clippings on the lawn to retain moisture. Be sure to maintain lawn care equipment. Sharpen mower blades at least twice during the summer. Dull blades tear grass, forcing it to use 40% to 60% more water!

-Avoid over-fertilizing your lawn. Applying fertilizer increases the need for water.

-Don't water your lawn on windy days. You will lose water to evaporation *and* you will end up watering the sidewalks and driveways!

## Outdoor Conservation



- ◆ When washing a car, use a bucket and sponge. Wash car on grass if possible to recycle water.
- ◆ Sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down.
- ◆ Install covers on pools and spas and check for leaks around your pumps.
- ◆ If you have automatic sprinklers be sure to turn them off if rainfall has been sufficient for your yard's needs.
- ◆ Use native or drought-resistant plants that will minimize long term water consumption.
- ◆ Consider an evapotranspiration (ET based) irrigation system. These systems use 20% to 30% less water than standard irrigation systems.

## Indoor Conservation

- ◆ Check your toilet periodically for leaks; toilets are the number one water consuming fixture indoors.
- ◆ Turn off water while brushing your teeth or shaving, rather than running a steady stream.
- ◆ Limit showers to five minutes.
- ◆ For efficient water use make sure dishwasher and washing machine are full before running.
- ◆ Avoid using your toilet for a wastebasket or ashtray; extra flushes waste water and money.
- ◆ Keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator. This will save water you might otherwise waste when you let the faucet run until the water is cool.
- ◆ Retrofit all outdated water fixtures with newer water-conserving fixtures.